County passes budget; increases allocation to schools

Highlands School gym roof to be addressed in FY 2016-’17 allocation

Tuesday night the public was given an opportunity to speak to county commissioners regarding the proposed $47,696,749 budget – however no one signed up to speak during public comment. With no concerns from the public, the MC Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the budget Tuesday night.

Before voting, commissioners were presented with changes from County Manager Derek Roland regarding the allocation to the Macon County Board of Education. Originally, Roland proposed reducing the school system’s operating budget while increasing the district’s capital outlay budget.

• See BUDGET page 6

EMS grant to expand in-home Paramedic Program

Since March of 2015, Macon County EMS has been operating the Community Care Paramedic (CCP) Program, which allows Macon County EMS to provide in-home care to patients to reduce the number of hospital visits and ambulance rides patients experience.

The initial focus of the program was to reduce the number of hospital re-admissions within a 30-day period. Since inception, the program has also seen reduction in workload of transporting EMS units, according to Macon County Emergency Management Director Warren Cabe.

Due to its success, Cabe asked commissioners to approve a grant application to expand the patients it serves to include mental health patients.

• See PARAMEDIC page 7

Jenkins celebrates 40 years as 1st Presbyterian’s organist

Her outreach is music: pastors and others speak out

For 40 years, Angie Jenkins has been a part of the music ministry of First Presbyterian Church. How she has grown in those years – in the beginning, not quite old enough for her feet to reach the pedals until today with feet dancing over the foot pedals of the pipe organ.

As she grew, she helped our music grow. She welcomed the challenge of going from the Allen Electric Organ to the 1,000 pipe Wicks organ. She embraced the opportunities various choir directors presented.

She worked to make new dimensions of music: summer interludes, use of guest musicians, hymn sings, and the joy of singing with the children of the Highlands Community Child Development Center and The Gordon Center.

• See JENKINS page 19

Rec Park offers free tennis camp for kids ages 6-12

This summer the Highlands Rec Park is sponsoring junior and adult groups, semi-private, and private tennis instruction for Highlands area residents and their families with Coach Paul Herron.

There is a free Junior Tennis Camp for ages 6-12 for beginners and Level 1 intermediate players. from 9 a.m. to noon most Saturdays in June and July. Students will learn footwork, stroke production for forehand and backhand groundstrokes, approach shots, volleys, serving and overheads.

“Coach Paul” was the assistant tennis coach at Highlands School last year. He is a former NCAA collegiate tennis coach, PTR-certified tennis instructor, and Director of Tennis & Head

• See TENNIS page 21

The SUMMER HOUSE ‘Home Furnishing Center’ Open

Mon. thru Sat. 9a-5p
Sunday noon - 5p
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In-Town Stunner; Special Enclave
MLS # 84111 • $448,000

Affordable 3BD/2BA on .93 ac.
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Fun for the whole family!
Commissioners have lots to decide about ‘Food and Wine Festival’

Let me stress that the Town of Highlands is not a sponsor of the event, although we want to be supportive of any public event that enhances the community. The town is directly involved in this event because some activities will be held on public property, therefore town policies, ordinances and state regulations have to be followed. If the food festival was at private venues, the town involvement would not be a major issue.

The town has a peddling ordinance on public property which means merchandise cannot be sold from trucks. For instance, as a potter I cannot park my truck downtown and sell pottery from the tailgate. Someone cannot simply trailer a barbecue cooker into the park and sell barbecue at lunch time, although cooking and selling barbecue in the park in conjunction with nonprofit fundraisers, like the Rotary Club 4th of July Cookout and last week’s Car Show, both are permitted.

So, bringing food trucks in for a limited time in the context of a large event may be acceptable, but it does raise concerns by many folks. Is this an introduction or segue for allowing food trucks in the town limits of Highlands? Coupled with the traditional concern about drive thru fast food franchises, I suspect many Highlanders do not view food trucks as a good fit for the town. Any permanent change in the ordinance concerning peddling and selling from trucks would have to be made by the Town Board, as will food trucks for a one-day food festival event in the park. Current policy requires such activities to benefit local, nonprofit/charitable organizations.

Another final approval will be for the closing of Main Street from 4th to 5th Street. Since the closing is not in the middle of the season, the board will consider the request. Several requirements, such as fire department access to buildings, will have to be met. Also, public access to all street areas will be required. By policy and code, the town cannot allow a public space to be roped off for a ticketed event. For example, ticketed music concerts are not allowed in the park, events have to be open to all. The same concept would apply to street closings. Currently, when streets are closed, for example for Halloween, full public access remains.

Finally, procedures for the Sip and Stroll event will need to be refined. I have received feedback concerning folks carrying open containers on the street as they stroll. That is a violation of NC statutes. I am certain that procedures can be developed to advert this problem.

Hope to see you tonight for the Highlands Town Board Meeting. There will also be a public hearing for the FY 2016/17 town budget.

Dear Editor,

Concerning the June 9 edition of Highlands Newspaper, Alice Nelson’s letter … something to think about … Fred, something might be bigger than ourselves.

Jared McClure
Marietta, GA

Letters

Pastors at CBC earn doctorates

Something unusual occurred on May 7, concerning two ministers in the Highlands-Cashiers area. Gary Hewins, Senior Pastor and Greg Steely, Assistant Pastor, both of Community Bible Church, were awarded Doctoral Degrees in two different cities from two different institutes of higher learning.

Dr. Hewins earned his Doctor of Ministry from the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Boston, MA and Dr. Steely earned his Doctorate of Strategic Leadership and Foresight from Regent University in Virginia Beach, VA.

Weekend Weather

For real-time weather and the extended forecast go to www.highlandsinfo.com and click on Weather.
Obituary

Dr. Charles William Bauknight, Sr

Dr. Charles William Bauknight, Sr., of 2010 Magnolia Drive, Highlands, born December 25, 1934 to John Edward and Theodosia Brock Bauknight, was raised in Walhalla, S.C. He attended prep school at the McCallie School in Chattanooga and graduated from Emory University and Emory Medical School. He trained at Johns Hopkins and Grady Memorial in Atlanta. He served in the Air Force in Columbus, Mississippi before practicing obstetrics and gynecology for 30 years in Anderson, S.C.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Johannah Armbricht Bauknight, his son Charles William Bauknight, Jr. and daughter Johannah Bauknight Plyler (David), his grandson Charles Conrad Plyler and his brothers Clarence Brock (Harriet) and John Edward III (Susan).

He was a basketball player, a runner, a tennis player, a golfer and an avid bridge player (ACBL Ruby Life Master 2016). He loved birds, books and wildflowers. Memorials may be made to Eckerd Living Center, Highlands.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences can be made at maconfuneralhome.com

...LETTERS continued from page 2

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to last week’s letter entitled “Please Explain the Unexplainable.

The Chamber of Commerce is a registered 501(c)(6) nonprofit and is accountable for the guidelines set forth for such organizations. The word “commerce” refers to the mission of the Chamber to foster the success of businesses in Highlands. Culinary Weekend—now called Highlands Food and Wine Festival (HFW)—is not, and was never intended to be, a revenue generator. Like the Chamber-sponsored Saturdays on Pine and Friday Night Live,

...LETTERS continued from page 9

Pottery Sale

Every Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM

The Dave Drake Studio Barn at The Bascom

323 Franklin Road
Highlands, NC 28741
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A 200 Main Midweek Spa Getaway Package

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Serving Comfortable Italian, Steaks & Seafood
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270 Main Street (828) 526-2590
Father’s Day Specials!
Cheeseburger Omelet
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Prime Rib Dinner Sat. & Sun.

Wild Thyme Gourmet Restaurant
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Gourmet Foods, Full Service Bar
Town Square at 343-D Main St. • Highlands

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Open 7 days a week.
Serving Lunch
11a to 4p
Serving Dinner
from 5:30p

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Southern Living 2016: “Best Place for Dinner in Highlands”

Bistro at 4p and Dining Room at 5:30p
Open 6 days • Closed Tuesday
For reservations call
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A unique fine dining experience on Harris Lake in Highlands featuring fresh seafood, an extensive wine list and excellent service.

Serving Dinner from 5:30p • Tuesday-Saturday
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11am - 4pm
Fri. & Sat. for dinner ‘til 9p
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595 Franklin Road • Highlands, NC

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Paninis • Baked Goods
On Main Street • Highlands
7 days a week • 7a to 6p • 526-0020

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Breakfast and Lunch EVERYDAY • 9a to 3p
Dinner, Thurs., Fri. & Sat. • 5:30p until
Sunday 9a to 2:30p
(Closed Wednesdays)
Homemade Desserts • Gluten Free Pizza & Desserts Available • Catering, Too!

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Serving Breakfast & Lunch.

Monday-Saturday
Breakfast: 7:30:10:30am
Lunch: Until 2:30pm
Full cooked-to-order breakfast & Daily Lunch Specials.

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Restaurant
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Fine Dining with a View!

Open for Dinner
Fri., Sat., & Sun.
5:30-10p
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Sat., & Sun
7:30-11a
Father’s Day Brunch Sunday • 12-2

Appetizers
Sesame seared tuna wonton cups w/Asian slaw w/citrus soy reduction and wasabi cream • $12
Smoked trout cakes w/roasted pear, garlic & horseradish sauce • $12

Entrees
Cedar plank salmon w/asparagus and whipped potatoes • $22
Goat cheese and olive stuffed chicken breast • $20

Full Bar, wine & beer
Prepared to order by Chef Kirtis
Reservations appreciated but not required

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Lunch and Dinner
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Norma Jean on the guitar on the terrace Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Norma Jean on the guitar on the terrace Saturday and Sunday afternoons.
Greg Demonet discovered his love for exploring the natural world around him in Bryson City after taking a wilderness leadership course in his twenties. There, he built his foundation, and then moved to Colorado for a season, but he soon found himself back in the beautiful mountain town in North Carolina guiding people down the river, gliding on zip lines across the forests and biking or hiking the Great Smoky Mountains. Now a nurse at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, Greg finds joy in guiding people on a journey of health and healing.

Becoming a nurse wasn’t in Greg’s plans, but his knack of caring for others revealed itself when he got his EMT certification to help care for people at the wilderness center. After nearly twenty years with the wilderness center, he decided it was time for a mid-life change. He took his EMT certification a few steps further, graduated from nursing school in July 2014 and landed a job one month later with Mission Health at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital.

The small community hospital has been the perfect place for Greg to transition and develop his skills from the wilderness to the emergency department. He recognized there was much he didn’t know as a new nurse, and the supportive environment and kind staff have embraced his eagerness to learn and seek positive outcomes.

Greg loves that he can experience life in the beautiful region of Highlands and Cashiers, while maintaining the life he cherishes with his family in Bryson City, about an hour away. He knows that’s possible because of resources like housing and online education that are available through Mission Health. Greg looks forward to growing in his practice by becoming a certified emergency nurse and earning his BSN.

From the rope courses to the emergency department at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital, Greg has thrived in the change of scenery, exploring new ways to empower others to pursue a life well-lived.

There’s a place for you in the mountains.
Explore more stories like Greg’s and learn how you can find yourself at Mission Health. at mission-health.org/OurNursingStory

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...BUDGET continued from page 1

The total allocation to the school system would experience a $142,899 reduction overall. When Roland initially proposed his budget, he noted that the proposed cuts were centered around increased funding on the state level, as well as the school system building a fund balance that is expected to exceed $2 million by the year’s end.

Since Roland’s budget was first released, Macon County School leaders have been working with commissioners to develop a compromised budget that leaves the district’s operating budget flat.

Superintendent Dr. Chris Baldwin spoke to commissioners during a public work session asking for the operating budget to remain at $7.3 million so the district can continue providing quality education for students. According to Dr. Baldwin, the district relies on both the $7.3 million from the county and the $2 million fund balance to adequately prepare for the coming school year and be able to manage any funding mandates on the state level.

Macon County Commissioners Ronnie Beale and Gary Shields, liaisons to the school system, spent this week working closely with the school system on a funding compromise that would benefit both groups. On Tuesday night, Roland presented commissioners with a new funding plan that allows the district to keep operating funds flat.

Roland proposed having the school board allocate $200,000 from the district’s fund balance for operating costs, which would leave the operating budget at $142,899 less than last year. Roland said to make up that difference, the county would provide the funding out of the proposed budget’s county building renovation fund.

In Roland’s budget, $150,000 was budgeted for improvements to Macon County’s Robert C. Carpenter Community Building as well as the public playground, Wesley’s Park, located in town. Roland suggested transferring those funds to the school system. He explained that the building renovations, especially at Wesley’s Park, which has significant safety concerns, will still be addressed in the upcoming fiscal year, but suggested that when the time came to fund those one time capital improvement projects, the county consider using money from...
Currently, patients with a diagnosis of Congestive Heart Failure, COPD, Sepsis, Diabetes, Myocardial Infarction, CVA/Stroke, post Cardiac Arrest patients or those with High Fall Risk are considered “high risk” and are the most commonly served by the CCP program.

Most often Cabe said the role of EMS working the program is to assess and connect to resources. If treatment is needed, EMS can perform any treatment under the EMT-Paramedic Scope of Practice and often confer with Primary Care Physicians or Emergency Room Physicians as to the best treatment for the patient. In this at-home setting, it is of utmost importance to have a plan for the extended care of the patient, he said.

The program keeps about 20-30 patients and works with them for about a month. Cabe said the program isn’t supposed to provide long-term care for patients, but rather to help patients who often fall between the cracks in times of transition. When patients improve, or are able to be placed in the appropriate care facility, or if their condition changes, they “graduate” from the program.

Cabe asked commissioners to allow Macon County EMS to apply for a $34,499.28 grant from the Evergreen Foundation to allow the current program to broaden its scope through additional education of current paramedic providers, field technicians, and emergency dispatchers.

While the paramedics are well versed in chronic disease management, additional training and understanding in aiding patients managing their mental illnesses could help serve the needs of the community.

Cabe said CCP programs are rare, and those who serve mental health patients are even less common, but something more emergency departments are starting to explore. Existing programs work to reduce the number of involuntary commitments by as much as 80 percent, something that Macon County leaders have advocated for years.

The grant provides for one additional full time employee and will allow Macon County EMS to expand the CCP program from three days a week to five, which will increase the number of patients being served.

It also includes an education component so Macon County EMS can partner with Smoky Mountain LME/MCO in handling patients with mental health issues. Commissioners unanimously approved Cabe’s grant application request.
BREAKFAST
Full breakfast made to order
every morning until 11:00am
Cage free eggs, waffles, French toast,
bacon, sausage, ham, biscuits, muffins,
croissants. Espresso bar and coffee
roasted in-house.

LUNCH
Grill – every day of the week
starting at 11:00 until close
Fresh cut natural meats, homemade deli
salads, specialty sandwiches, homemade
potato chips, daily soup specials.

Deli – Serving all day
Fresh cut natural meats, homemade deli
salads, specialty sandwiches, homemade
potato chips, daily soup specials.

Wood Fire Pizza Oven –
Every day from 11:00 to close
Authentic Neapolitan pizza made from
scratch, fresh mozzarella, basil, crushed
tomatoes, homemade Italian sausage,
pancetta, and daily specials.

SUNDAY SOUTHERN BRUNCH BAR
Every Sunday from 11am – 3pm
Skillet fried chicken, country Angus steak,
skillet corn, biscuits & preserves, mashed
potatoes, veggies, cobbler, plus the entire
soup & salad bar.
$11.99 (dine in) or
$9.99 a pound (to go)biscuit...$8.95

PREPARED FOODS
A large selection of take-away items fully
prepared and ready to take home. Grilled
pork loins, homemade mac & cheese,
mashed potatoes, herb rubbed chicken,
made in house bbq, chicken salad, deli
salads & much more.

DINNERS TO GO
A different full dinner for two every night,
Monday–Saturday from 4:30 until we sell
out. Call ahead to reserve...

Monday – Low Country Lobster/Shrimp
Boil – Maine lobster tails, wild caught
large shrimp, red bliss potatoes, summer
corn, house made sausage, all steeped in
our seasoning. Served with drawn butter
and cocktail sauce. $34.95 serves two

Tuesday – Oven Off Night
Two natural chicken breasts grilled with
our Tuscan herb infused olive oil, served
on a bed of greens with stuffed brie,
spiced pecans, our extra virgin olive oil
and balsamic vinegar on the side with
two cups of homemade gazpacho and a
baguette from our bakery.
$24.95 serves two

Wednesday – Prime Rib with Baked
Potatoes & Salad – Premium Angus
standing rib roast, cooked medium rare
w/ red wine au jus. Two baked potatoes
& a large Caesar salad. $34.95 serves two

Thursday – Two Racks of Baby Back Ribs
- cooked until fall-off-the-bone-tender.
Served with house made bacon/apple
baked beans and potato salad.
$27.95 serves two

Friday – Wild Caught Shrimp: fried or
steamed. Wild caught North Carolina
shrimp either lightly breaded in our
seasoned corn flour mixture, and then
properly fried in peanut oil & served w/
hush puppies; or steamed to order in our
low country seasoning. Both come with
coleslaw and rosemary sea salt broiled red
potatoes, tarter & cocktail sauce.
$28.95 serves two

Saturday – In-House Smoked BBQ –
Hand rubbed pork butt, pit-smoked
over night and hand pulled to order.
Comes with coleslaw, apple bacon
baked beans, and yeast rolls
$23.95 serves two

WINE MARKET & CRAFT BEER
An excellent, comprehensive selection
of wine with the best prices in town,
and run by a friendly knowledgeable
staff. Craft beer and wine available by
the glass while you shop and dine.

BAKERY
Full service scratch bakery making
rolls, baguettes, sandwich breads,
pastries, birthday and wedding cakes,
cookies and seasonal specialties.

BUTCHER SHOP
We sell only 100% Premium Angus
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Seasonal seafood, all natural chicken,
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out weekly ad for this week's pricing.

SPECIALTY CHEESES
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and specialty items including our
made in-house crackers.

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HFW was created to bring a sense of community and festivity to the downtown area of Highlands for residents and visitors. Events like this have been shown through research to be an indicator of economic success for towns whose main source of revenue is from visitors. Creating a fun place to live and do business helps foster a sense of community, and a sense of community helps attract and engage visitors that come for the slice-of-life appeal found in Highlands.

The Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center board is made up citizens and businesspeople in the Highlands community who volunteer their time to help make Highlands a better place to live, visit and do business. Its board members are elected by the Chamber membership—businesspeople in the community—and nobody is excluded based on their place of employment within the Highlands community. The current chairman, Jack Austin, and the entire board, have an interest in seeing HFW continue to succeed in generating business for inns, shops, restaurants, vacation rentals and service organizations, in what was historically an extremely slow weekend in Highlands.

Participation in Culinary Weekend has begun to dwindle over the past couple years, and the dedicated community volunteers that have worked tirelessly to produce the event each year had taken it as far as they could. For this reason, the Chamber engaged an events company to help produce HFW in its 10th year, and to bring new and interesting activities to reinvigorate this signature event—which has played a key role in positioning Highlands as a culinary destination.

The proposed food truck event in the park is one of the new daytime events planned to create more of a festival feel throughout the weekend and to engage Highlands visitors around this popular culinary phenomenon. (The lamp-post banners are also intended to provide a sense of welcome and celebration for visitors coming to town for the festival.) The HFW committee is working to create a fun event that is inclusive for the community, that also brings a benefit—perhaps charitable—and that meets with The Town’s established guidelines for park use.
The best young ELVIS this weekend!

The Highlands Performing Arts Center opens the Summer Concert Season with Travis LeDoyt, The Best Young Elvis, Friday and Saturday, June 17 & 18, 8pm.

Growing up Travis was exposed to a broad variety of musical styles, from Country to Swing, to Rock & Roll, as well as Classical. His fascination with music and instruments led to formal piano lessons at the age of 9. Before long, Travis was writing his own songs. Over the years, Travis LeDoyt has developed into a truly remarkable talent; singer, performer, songwriter, and musician (piano, keyboard, guitar), but most of all he is fast becoming one of America’s most convincing, jaw-dropping tribute acts to ever grace the stage. Although not an immediate fan of Elvis, as Travis got to know more about the man and his music, he came to understand why Elvis was dubbed and will forever be known as “The King” of Rock & Roll. Particularly appealing to Travis are Elvis’ early years, the Sun recordings, and a time when a kid out of nowhere became a legend, not only for his music but for his generosity, his humility, and his desire to be an individual who his peers would not only admire...but respect.

It is with the utmost admiration and respect for Elvis that Travis LeDoyt offers his tribute to the man who shaped a generation. Born in 1977, the year Elvis died, Travis never had the opportunity to see the King. Through his remarkable resemblance and his incredible talent to emulate, to perform the voice and style, Travis flawlessly captures the essence of Elvis in his prime. Specializing in the 1959-1962 years. He performs a one to two hour historic concert tribute with his band.

The reincarnation witnessed through his dynamic show is truly spectacular and offers for those who never saw the King, the next best thing.

Friday & Saturday, June 17 & 18, Highlands Performing Arts Center.

Tickets available online: highlandspac.org or by calling 828.526.9047
The Bascom's Mountains in Bloom event announces horticulture call to entry

Tucked away in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains is Highlands, NC. At 4,118’ elevation, the tiny town of Highlands boasts gorgeous mountain views and a breathtaking forest of native trees, shrubs, plants and flowers.

Highlands receives between 87 to over 100 inches of rain per year, classifying it as a temperate rainforest. The climate is idyllic with four mild seasons throughout the year – most noticeably cool and mild summers. It is because of this unique climate that the Highlands/Cashiers Plateau boasts more than 100 native trees, more than 500 types of moss and ferns, and more than 1,400 flowering plants.

In celebration of the Plateau's diverse plants and flowers, Mountains in Bloom will feature a Horticulture Show. Entries are free and open to the public, and should be brought to The Bascom on Thursday, July 14 from 8 to 11 am. The judging will begin at 1 pm and the plants will be on exhibit Friday and Saturday, July 15 and 16. Rules for the plant entries can be found at www.mountainsinbloom.com and are also available at The Bascom. The highest honor awarded for the Horticulture Show is the Balentine Award.

Participants are asked to provide common and botanical names for their plants.

The Horticulture Show will be open to the public, free of charge, Friday, July 15 to Saturday, July 16. The Bascom, a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, always offers free admission to exhibitions. For more information regarding The Bascom, please visit www.thebascom.org.
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for Men
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526-5029 or 526-1029

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Tools and safety equipment. Following the work day, Greenway will hold its Annual Meeting from 12:30 – 2 at the Rec Park’s picnic area to which the public is invited.

- Shrimp Boil fundraiser to benefit Kelsey-Hutchinson Park on the plaza in the park at 6-8 p.m. Proceeds will help complete the Monument Garden, the Sitting Fountain and the Historic Fireplace. $30 ticket includes the Low Country Boil Dinner and 3 drinks including wine and beer. $5 wine and beer tickets available at the plaza. Live music by Goldie & The Screamers. Tickets are available at the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, the Dry Sink or online at www.foundersparkhighlands.org.

- World Wide Knit In Public Day. The Bascom Knitters will be celebrating by sharing their crafts and skills with demonstrations on the Terrace at The Bascom from 10 am until noon.

Sun., June 19
- At PAC, WCU presents Shakespeare at 5 p.m. The performance is $20; the Fish n Chips dinner is $50. For tickets call 526-9060.

Mon.-Fri., June 20-24
- South Macon Baptist Church, 2949 Clark’s Chapel Road, Franklin will have its Vacation Bible School, “Cowabunga Farm,” Monday through Friday, from 6 until 8 p.m. Dinner will be served from 5:30 until 6 p.m. If transportation is needed, leave a message at 828-524-0919.

Mon., June 20
- Garden Tour: Bog Carnivores at the Botanical Garden from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free.

- At CLE, Frederick Law Olmsted in the South – 2 – 4 pm, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. Contact Sandy Carlton @ 828-526-8811.

Tues., June 21
- Guided adventures led by experts in their field. Reservations required. $35 donation for new friends includes the guided hike, lunch on the trail and a one year membership to HCLT, $10 for HCLT members. Contact Julie at julie.hitrust@earthlink.net or 526-1111. Balsam Mountain Preserve Expedition- Our visit will include a hike through the renowned landscape that some call a living laboratory for scientific research and exploration as well as a visit to their on-site nature center to meet the wildlife that reside there.

- The Rathskeller CoffeeHaus & Pub in Franklin will host an open-mic poetry night for adults on Tuesday, at 6:30 p.m. All area poets and lovers of poetry are invited to read or recite their original works, as well as share their favorite works by other poets, in the Rathskeller’s relaxed atmosphere. There is no admission charge.

- Nocturnal Nature at the Nature Center at 9 p.m. $3 per person.

- Like playing with Legos? The Hudson Library is starting a Lego Club that will meet once a month. The first Lego Club from 2:30-4pm.

- At CLE, Japan and US in the Cold War – 10 am – 12 noon, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. Contact Sandy Carlton @ 828-526-8811.

Wed., June 22
- At CLE, Bees, Please: Native Bee Diversity in Your Garden and Beyond, 2-4 p.m.

- At CLE, Unending Conflict on the Korean Peninsula – 10 am – 12 noon, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. Contact Sandy Carlton @ 828-526-8811.

Thurs., June 23
- At CLE, FBI-Post 9/11 – 2 – 4 pm, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. For more information, contact Sandy Carlton @ 828-526-8811.

- At CLE, Highlights of NC Museum of Art – 10 am – 12 noon, CLE Lecture Hall, Peggy Crosby Center. Contact Sandy Carlton @ 828-526-8811.

- Needlepoint exhibit at Chestnut Hill of Highlands from 4:30 - 6 pm. Refreshments.
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...LETTERS continued from page 9

state road system.

Lastly, the “ultimatum” to The Town to approve the ideas on the same evening they were presented was an unfortunate miscommunication. The pressing need to move forward with marketing, schedules, ticket sales and sponsorships drove the need for a decision one way or another so that we could begin developing the events presented or modify them accordingly. The Mayor, the Town Manager, and the Commissioners graciously proceeded with the discussions at the meeting in spite of that error on the Chamber’s part, demonstrating a cooperative spirit that we greatly appreciate. The Chamber is now working with The Town in hopes of creating a 10th Annual Highlands Food and Wine Festival that will bring residents, businesses and visitors together in a sense of revelry and celebration around some of our greatest community assets: our talented chefs and amazing restaurants, our beautiful Main Street, and the Kelsey-Hutchinson Founders Park.

Bob Kieltyka
President, Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center

...INVESTING continued from page 15

off by 2mm (that is, a tiny margin of error), you are going to be waiting a long time to sell. Conversely, if you buy right and build right, you will find you are under contract within weeks, not months.

There is a surge of energy in this market – it is palpable. In addition, there is an even greater renewal of demand from buyers. I can assure you if you build the right house in the right location, they will come.

• Susie deVille, ME, ABR, SFR, is Owner/Broker-in-Charge of White Oak Realty Group. Her areas of expertise include real estate investments, niche marketing, social media, and strategic property positioning. An expert in entrepreneurship and anthropology, Susie applies her acumen in human behavior toward negotiating and advocating on behalf of her clients. White Oak Realty Group’s sales office is located at 125 South Fourth Street in the heart of the retail district in Highlands. For more information, visit WhiteOakRG.com or call (828) 526-8118.
I am fascinated by real estate market vagaries and trends. I study the market for gathering intel for my clients, as well as just for fun — there is never a shortage of intriguing and interesting goings on.

Approximately two years ago, I began talking with investors about considering building on spec, relaying to them the coming dearth of new inventory close in to town. I just did a search in the Highlands-Cashiers MLS and see that there are 1,324 homes on the market. When I refine the search to pull the number of homes on the market that were built no earlier than 2009, the number drastically drops to 70 (and again, this is the entire Highlands-Cashiers MLS inventory which includes everything from Lake Toxaway to north GA).

Guess what happens when you pull the number of newly-built homes that are inside the Highlands city limits? The inventory is all of 3 properties!

Guess what the hottest segment in the market is right now?

Neater homes, located closer in to town.

If ever there was a “Blue Ocean” opportunity for real estate investors, this is it (if you are not familiar with this term, check out the book entitled Blue Ocean Strategy; essentially, this is the creation of uncontested market space).

Having said all that, this kind of investing is not to be done without either knowing precisely what you are doing and/or having excellent advice from an experienced professional. In order to win the game, investors need to buy in the precisely right locations, and then build precisely what the market wants. If you are

• See INVESTING page 14

Susie deVille
Broker-in-Charge
White Oak Realty Group
(828) 371-2079

Susie deVille
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(828) 371-2079

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Business Only! The Kitchen CarryAway & Catering, a well-established enterprise with tremendous goodwill, is a turn-key business opportunity for the savvy entrepreneur: All recipes, recipe books, equipment, customer database, catering/event historical data, and 4 weeks of training included! Visit TheKitchenofHighlands.com.

Offered at $150,000. MLS #82438.
Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

Rustic and Elegant w/Mountain Views
This 2BR/2.5 BA exemplary cabin is on .66+/- acres close to town, with large, covered deck. Enter into the open living room with cathedral ceilings that features a stone, floor-to-ceiling, wood-burning fireplace. The spacious master is on the main level with a jacuzzi sun room off to the side (also accessible from the deck). The upper level has a second bedroom and bath, offering sumptuous privacy. Short drive to Main Street and even shorter drive to beautiful Mirror Lake for canoeing and fishing.

Offered at $365,000. MLS #84129.
Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

Beautiful Lot, In-Town
Beautiful 1.03 +/- acre building lot situated on one of Highlands’ most popular, walk-to-town quiet lanes. Paved, easy access and adjoins the Bascom Campus. Tuck your home amongst the trees for while enjoying proximity to all of Highlands’ Main Street offerings.

Offered at $187,500. MLS #82512.
Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

Historic Home in Center of Town
The one-two combination that is rare in Highlands: privacy + fabulous downtown location. On two lots (1.53 +/- acres), this stunning, historic 3BR/3.5BA home features clear chestnut paneling, granite fireplace, oak flooring, detailed craftsmanship, an artist’s studio, lovely grounds, paved access, single garage, and workshop. Situated on the north side of Satulah Mountain, this property is the ideal place to escape summer heat. Site is replete with rhododendron, forsythia, day lilies, azalea, and tulips. A dream property!

Offered at $769,000. MLS #81480.
Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.

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Offered at $365,000. MLS #84129.
Contact Susie deVille (828) 371-2079.
Dr. Curtis Fussell, Co-Pastor,  
First Presbyterian Church

The prayer of Psalm 90:12 says, “Lord, teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” This prayer suggests that we live our lives within brackets — only so many number of days. How vital it is then for us to fill our bracketed life span with a “heart of wisdom.”

His name was Steve Hayner. At the time of Steve’s death from pancreatic cancer in January 2015 at the age of 66, he was the President of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. After his death, his wife Sharol published a book called, Joy in the Journey: Finding Abundance in the Shadow of Death which recounts the experience that Sharol and Steve shared through his battle with cancer.

One might well ask, “Can anything good come out of dying?” The answer is “Yes, it can! But only if you have grown a heart of wisdom over the years.” Here are a few of the wise insights about living that Steve wrote just weeks before his death.

“Facing death has a way of clarifying life. So let me tell you a few things that I’ve learned in the last months. First, as long as I have life on this earth, I have a call. Over my lifetime I have had many roles to play and many jobs to fulfill. But it is not the particulars of being a husband, a father, a grandfather, a friend, a seminary president, or anything else that ultimately matters so much as the underlying call to be faithful. Every day, no matter how sick I become, I still have a call.”

Something else, “God will never give up in his work to transform me into the likeness of Jesus. I fail every day. But God loves us from beginning to end and through every disease to teach me. It’s not easy, and I don’t like to change. But God loves me too much ever to give up on me.”

Finally, Steve wrote, “Joy is not about my circumstances but rather about being held and sustained by God’s love. Nothing can ever separate us from the love of God — not suffering, not want, not abundance, not sin, not anything. God loves us from beginning to end and through every circumstance. If there is one thing I can trust, it is God’s love for me in Jesus Christ.”

On January 1, 2015, only weeks before his death, Steve was admitted to Hospice and was facing the harrowing reality of the final days of his life. Yet, he wrote: “Today, I’m not afraid, though some fears will undoubtedly sneak up on me as I get sicker. Today, I’m trying to be attentive to what is happening to me without feeling like I have to be responsible for everything. Today, I am living once again into joy.”

The prayer, “Lord, teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom,” encourages us to seek a wise heart as we move through the days of our lives. It is a worthy goal for our lives.

Let me ask you to write down these dates for this summer: August 21 and 22. Sharol Hayner will be in Highlands to deliver a sermon and a lecture on her husband Steve’s “heart of wisdom” at First Presbyterian Church. I am sure we will find her words relevant, encouraging, helpful, and faithful as we continue to live towards the goal of a wise heart.
The Highlands Police log entries from May 27. Only the names of persons arrested, issued a Class-3 misdemeanor or public officials have been used.

May 27
• At 3:15 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on NC 28 near Spring Street.

May 28
• At 2:11 p.m., the dept. responded to a false alarm at a residence on Cullasaja Club Dr.

June 1
• At 12:10 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Spring Street.

June 2
• At 4 p.m., officers received a report about fraud by impersonation and identity theft from a resident of Azalea Circle where a statement with charges not made by the victim was found in the mail.

June 3
• At 12:53 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident on Poplar Street.
• At 3:34 p.m., officers received a call about a burglary with forced entry at a rental unit on NC 106.
• At 4:10 a.m., officers received a call about a bear outside the front door at a residence on Dogwood Drive that was getting into the garbage and making dogs bark.

June 6
• At 1:30 a.m., a simple physical assault was reported at the Lost Hiker where a girl was being pushed.

The Highlands Fire & Rescue Dept.
log from May 26
June 7
• At 2:11 p.m., the dept. responded to a two-vehicle accident on US 64 west.

June 8
• At 6:14 a.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Main Street.

June 10
• At 12:11 p.m., the dept. responded to a motor vehicle accident on Bowery Road.

June 11
• At 9:16 a.m., the dept. responded to a false alarm at a residence on Poplar Street.
• At 7:28 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cinnamon Lane.

June 12
• At 3:50 p.m., the dept. stood by at the hospital for the MAMA helicopter.
• At 7:42 a.m., the dept. responded to a fire alarm at a residence on Ravenel Ridge Road.
• At 9:48 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Raoul road.
• At 11:35 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Cheyenne Drive.

June 14
• At 10:42 a.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Hicks road.
• At 3:44 p.m., the dept. responded to a brush fire on NC 106.

June 15
• At 7:05 p.m., the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Brookings Lane.

June 5
• At 7:39 p.m. the dept. was first-responders to a residence on Rocky Ridge Road.

...BUDGET continued from page 6

the fund balance.

The county's $500,000 allocation to the school system for capital improvements also stayed the same. Roland specifically noted that of that $500,000, $200,000 of it needed to be earmarked to either repair or replace the gym on the Highlands roof. Both the school and the county have been in discussion on the best way to repair the roof, which has leaked and caused infrastructure problems for more than a decade. Dr. Baldwin informed commissioners that professionals are currently looking at the roof and bids and estimates on that project can be expected soon.

While the county and the school system worked out a compromise on funding for this school year, Franklin High School teacher John deVille spoke to commissioners Tuesday night urging them to pass the same resolution passed earlier this month by the Board of Education which asks the state to restore funding to 2008 levels.

Commissioners supported the intent of the resolution, which has been passed by school boards and county governments throughout the state, but shared concerns with some of the wording. Before approving the resolution, which would be sent to state leaders, commissioners proposed working with deVille on the resolution's language before voting to approve it.

The Macon County Board of Commissioners are set to meet again on Tuesday, June 28 in the commissioner's boardroom of the Macon County Courthouse.

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...BUDGET continued from page 6

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TOWN OF HIGHLANDS JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Position Title: Pool Director  
Salary Pay Range: $28,113 - $42,169

The Town of Highlands is accepting applications for the position of Pool Director. This position manages and administers the operations of the Town's pool operations, staff and activities. Work in this class includes planning pool activities; training and supervising staff; administering pool operations; enforcing rules and regulations pertaining to the protection of facilities, equipment and patrons. Full job description is available on our website at www.highlandsnc.org or at the Town Hall.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. The Town of Highlands provides a competitive benefits package. The successful applicant is subject to a criminal background check, a pre-employment drug screening and passing a physical examination.

Applications are available at Town Hall or may be downloaded from the Town's website at www.highlandsnc.org under Employment. Resumes may be submitted in addition to applications. All completed and signed employment applications may be submitted in person to Sonjia Gibson, HR Director, at the Town Hall, 210 N. Fourth Street, Highlands, NC, by email to sonjia.gibson@highlandsnc.org, by fax to 828-526-2595 or by U.S. Mail to the attention of Sonjia Gibson, HR Director, PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. The Town of Highlands is an Equal Opportunity/Drug-Free Employer. This position has a closing date of 07/01/2016, and applications will be reviewed as received.

(6/23)
The recent annual report from the music committee testifies to Angie’s impact on music—an essential component of the church’s worship and witness.

Equally important is Angie. Apart from her excellence as a musician at the organ or the Steinway, is Angie the person. She carries in her heart day to day, a love for this church reflected in her care for its members and various ministries. She has an unrelenting fervor for the light on the hill (FPCH). It beams wherever she goes: the grocery store, the bank, the post office. We are grateful to God for the gift of Angie Jenkins. She puts a song in our hearts not only on Sundays but each day of the week.

-J. Hunter Coleman, pastor, 1997-2007

I first met Angie when she was a little girl 4 years of age and, as her pastor, I came to know her and her family well. From the beginning it was evident that she was an extraordinary person. Over the years, I have observed her growth into a gracious lady of many accomplishments, not only as a fine musician but also as a creative writer, publisher, inspiring leader, a winsome public spirited citizen, and an exemplary and winsome Christian.

I am delighted to join in honoring my wonderful friend, Angie Lewis Jenkins!

-G. Daniel McCall, pastor, 1961-1965

Angela Lewis Jenkins is a remarkably talented person who started early. She started playing the piano for Sunday school and later for church services at the First Presbyterian Church 50 years ago. She was honored June 12 for having served as our church organist for 40 years! Accompanying all her many talents, Angie has two sons, a daughter and seven grandchildren. Her grandchildren are 9th generation Highlanders, who live in Highlands with their parents. Angie’s mother and father, Jane and Alan Lewis, are also Highlanders and long-term members of our church.

Angie is the longest tenured organist in the history of Highlands area churches!

Yet, Angie Jenkins is much more than a church organist. Her title is Organist and Music Coordinator. Being music coordinator takes as much if not more time than her duties as organist. She is truly an initiator not just a coordinator – she conceives and coordinates many of our music programs.

For instance, it was her idea to have the Patriotic Concert on the 4th of July; her idea to have Faculty Showcase Concerts with Western Carolina University; her idea to have the old fashioned Hymn Sings, her idea to invite certain musical groups to perform at our church, and she is currently initiating a concert of spirituals featuring soloists from our choir and elsewhere. Angie is always thinking creatively.

With her dual responsibilities, Angie makes sure everyone knows what is to take place and what their respective responsibilities are - and that all activities are within budget. She secures all guest musicians for our 8:30 a.m. worship services and rehearses and accompanies them; invites or coordinates the appearance of guest musicians at our 11 a.m. service. Angie also acts as a “den mother” for our student interns. She manages our music library and assists our Director of Worship and Music in the selection of music. Angie handles all administrative matters relating to our many music programs, including the initial preparation of the music departmental budget.

Thank you Angie for being “ours” and for your dedication and faithfulness.

– Stell Huie, Chair, Music Committee FPCH

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...TENNIS continued from page 1

Teaching Pro at private indoor and outdoor clubs throughout the northeast.

He has competed in amateur and professional tournaments, exhibition events with nationally ranked Davis Cup team members, and coached several USTA-ranked junior players.

He hopes to pass on his love of tennis to Highlanders and perhaps ready students for the tennis team at the Highlands School.

Herron is also offering fee-based weekly “Learning the Game” camps for ages 6-12 for beginners and Level 1 Intermediate players Monday-Thursday for three hours a day during morning or afternoon sessions. Another fee-based weekly camp “Playing the Game” caters to kids ages 8-14, also during morning or afternoon sessions. For adults there are weekly Learning and Playing the Game clinics which are fee-based.

For more information, contact the Rec Park at 526-3556 or Paul Herron at (321) 626-5639 or email paul.m.herron@gmail.com.
MOVING/YARD/ESTATE SALE  MULTIFAMILY PORCH SALE — Fri. 6/24 (10-4), Sat. 6/25(9-4), Sun. 6/26 (12-4) – Peggy Crosby Center back porch, 348 S. 5th Street, Highlands (Please access through driveway on right side and not through bldg,) Household goods, sectional sofa, oriental rug, side chair, art, Christmas items, etc. We are emptying our storage units! Most things half price on Sunday. (6/23)


KOBLART DIAMOND SHIELD REGULAR TRUCK BED TOOLBOX. Deep low profile full size. 17”x69”x19” fits most full size trucks $150. Call Frank in Scaly Mountain 828-526-1953. (st. 5/11)

CUB CADET RIDING MOWER 46” cut. $1500. Call Frank in Scaly Mountain 828-526-1953. (st. 5/11)

RV FOR SALE. 2010 LEISURE TRAVEL “FREE SPIRIT” ON MERCEDES SPRINTER DIESEL CHASSIS. Generator, king bed, indoor and outdoor showers, Michelin tires, full kitchen. Like new condition. $55,000 Call Nick at 828-371-2474. (st. 3/17)

HELP WANTED  SKYLINE LODGE IS HIRING HOUSEKEEPER. Experience an asset but not required. Download applications at skylinelodge.com. 828-526-2121

WHOLE LIFE MARKET & NECTAR JUICE BAR now accepting applications! Stop by to pick up an application or send resume to wholelife@frontier.com. (st. 6/2)

PART-TIME, YEAR-ROUND POSITION, w/holiday pay 3-11 p.m., Sat., and Sun. Dependable and multi-taskers only please and thank you. Call 828-526-2203. (st. 5/26)

4TH STREET MARKET OPENING THIS SUMMER. Immediate openings for Mgrs & Assoc.s, FT & PT, AM & PM, 7 days/week. Send resume & references to MaryBeth@4thStMarket.com (st. 5/26)

HIGHLANDS INN LODGE now hiring Front desk and housekeeping personnel. Stop by for application at 96 Log cabin lane or email sales@highlandsinnlodge.com. (st. 5/26)

YEAR ROUND PART-TIME SALES ASSOCIATE POSITION — available at Highlands’ newest boutique, Celebrity Collections. If you are an experienced professional, highly motivated self-starter and eager to learn an unique business, please send a resume to Celebrity Collections, PO Box 2368, Highlands, NC, 28741 or apply in person at 352 Main Street, Highlands. Contact Nancy at 828-526-4994. (st. 5/11)

FULL AND PART-TIME POSITIONS available at Nancy’s Fancys. Saturdays a must. Come by 322 Main Street, Highlands. (st. 4/28)

PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. First Presbyterian Church of Highlands is accepting applications for a part-time Administrative Assistant. Knowledge of Publisher and Microsoft Office a requirement. Please contact Jennifer at 828-526-3175. (st. 4/28)

CONSTRUCTION COMPANY NOW HIRING A DRIVER WITH NC DRIVERS LICENSE. For more details, call 828-526-9719 or 828-200-0191. (6/28)

FULL TIME AND PART-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT MOUNTAIN FRESH GROCERY IN THE BUTCHER DEPARTMENT. Salary/pay will be commensurate with ability and/or experience. Contact Don at 828-526-2400 or jobs828@gmail.com

BISTRO ON MAIN IS NOW HIRING EXPERIENCED KITCHEN HELP. Apply at Main Street Inn, or email info@mainstreet-inn.com. (4/21)

FT POSITION AVAILABLE FOR EXPERIENCED OFFICE MANAGER. Friendly personality to greet customers and work closely with associates. Real estate experience helpful. Ability to multi-task, attention to detail, organization and computer/telephone skills required. Some event planning/coordination may be required at times. Email resume & cover letter to newhirecashiers@gmail.com. (st. 4/14)

ADDITIONAL SECRETARY NEEDED part or full time. Black Bear Construction, Highlands. Experienced/Good with QuickBooks. (828) 200-0949. (st. 3/31)

WAITSTAFF NEEDED FOR CHESTNUT HILL OF HIGHLANDS. Please apply at 24 Clubhouse trail, Highlands, NC 828-526-5251. (st. 3/31)

SCALY MOUNTAIN NURSERY & LANDSCAPING is now hiring for landscape division. Call 828-526-9269 or Matt at 828-371-2474. (st. 3/17)

POTPOURRI STORES IN HIGHLANDS looking for part to full time sales people. Must be able to work weekends, retail experience with women’s clothing and accessories preferred. Email potpourrihighlands@yahoo.com (3/10)

FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME POSITIONS available at Mountain Fresh Grocery. Grill, Deli, Bakery and Pizza departments. 828-526-2400 or email jobs828@gmail.com

WOLFGANGS RESTAURANT is looking for experienced waitstaff and bartender. Please call Jacque at 828.526.3807. (st. 1/21)

SALES ASSOCIATE FOR HIGH END CLOTHING STORE IN HIGHLANDS, NC full time “with benefits. part time and seasonal. Must be available to work weekends. Retail clothing sales experience preferred. Please call 828-200-0928 (st. 4/30)

LOTS/LAND/FOR SALE

PROPERTY FOR SALE ON FOREMAN ROAD. 1.79 acres. $250,000. Any reasonable offers will be considered. Call 828-526-5011. (st. 6/28)

WOODED LOT W/ STREAM FOR SALE – MIRRORMONT AREA. Berit Ln., 1.45 acres, 4-BR septic permit, walk-to-town, Priced to sell. 770-861-4249. (st. 7/23)

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HANDY-MAN – Electrical, plumbing, painting, carpentry, yard work. Call Al at 828-743-7432 or call 828-369-5618. (5/9/19)

HIGH COUNTRY PHOTO/KEVIN ESTES. Scanning photos, slides & negatives to CD or DVD for easier viewing. Video transfer to DVD. Everything done in house. Leave message at 828-526-5208. (st. 10/29)

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